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House Rules For the Home We Call Earth

- # 1 *If you dirty it, clean it
- # 2 *If you get it out, put it away
- # 3 *If you lose it, find it
- # 4 *If you drop it, pick it up
- # 5 *If you open it, close it
- # 6 *If you turn it on, turn it off
- # 7 *If you borrow it, return it
- # 8 *If you move it, put it back
- # 9 *If you break it, replace it
- #10 *If it howls, feed it
- #11 *If it cries, love it
- #12 *If you value it, care for it

5... We live in this home together called Earth. In order to live together more harmoniously, we must abide by certain rules. Most children are taught these simple rules at an early age and I think most of us can agree that living by these rules can keep us all safe, healthy and happy. High level radioactive waste is not an easy or simple material to "clean up", "put away", "pick up" or "return" as the House Rules suggest. It is a severely toxic substance however, that requires much respect and understanding. It only makes sense, that anyone with that respect and understanding would agree to STOP creating this fatal material until we have secured a way to deal with the ^{more than} 32,000 metric tons of nuclear waste we currently have created. So do these rules apply to the Nuclear Industry??? Yes, of course they do. Why should an entity be exempt just because they generate billions of dollars in revenues?

For example:

1. **If you dirty it, clean it.** Is it really fair that we the taxpayers be expected to pay for cleaning up a spill at a centralized interim storage facility or for the health care for affected people in the community where the first mobile chernobyl accident occurs. Is the industry willing

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to take that responsibility. If not then they should stop creating the high level nuclear waste.

2. **If you get it out, put it back.** Someone asked just the other day, "if we take the uranium out of the earth can't we just put it back?" What a thought. Reactor fuel is a million times more radioactive when it comes out of the reactor than when it goes in. We all know the earth cannot handle such levels of radioactive materials. So, if you can't put it back, **DON'T TAKE IT OUT !**

3. **If you lose it, find it.** This brings up an interesting point.

If DOE decides to transport this ^{more than} 32,000 metric tons of radioactive waste? What happens if one cask is missing or for some reason, it never reaches it's destination.

1 Who is going to spend their every waking moment searching until they find it? Who will take responsibility? Maybe DOE should consider leaving it where it is. Highly visible, for all to see and be aware of. to BEWARE of.

4. **If you drop it, pick it up.** For some of us less informed about the technical aspect of moving these casks of high level radioactive waste around, this is a tricky rule. I understand that the industry has discovered a safe way to load the casks onto the train or truck beds for transport. But can you tell me what the plan is when one drops to the ground during a train wreck or when a truck overturns? I would like to know the answer and what exactly the protocol is for such an event. If there is no ^{safe, established} protocol, may I suggest you leave it where it is? I

5. 5 cont. If you open it, close it. Some cans of worms are pretty difficult to close once opened. Nuclear Energy is certainly one of those cans of worms. Some smooth talking corporate big wigs really sold DOE a big can of worms when they convinced everyone that Nuclear energy was the cleanest energy available. I'm sorry for that. I really am. I've bought a few can of worms in my lifetime and it's tough. But someone has to put a close to this desecration of the earth and it's people. Someone like DOE and the nuclear Industry working together must close the lid. Stop production. Put more funding into research and development of solutions to the waste challenges, NOW.

6. If you turn it on, turn it off. How many of us have heard our Dad for years telling us to turn the lights off. A good rule for conserving energy. Teaching consumers to conserve energy would be much more efficient than operating 103 Nuclear power plants. In Georgia, approximately 20% of electricity generated comes from Nuclear Power Plants. A small number, considering the amount of waste generated. How about turning off the nuclear power plants and encouraging the consumer to use less energy. Or better yet offer tax breaks to those who use alternative energy sources or who use less energy.

7. If you borrow it, return it. Has the Federal Government "borrowed" land from Native Americans for uranium mining and low level waste dumps? Then when the Native American Indian asks for use of the

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land for sacred ceremonies (i.e. church service) they were denied access?? Can we return something after it has been raped and polluted and still call it sacred? Is the nuclear industry capable of understanding the term "sacred". I was always taught that if you borrow something, return it cleaner than it was when you borrowed it. What a wonderful and considerate action that would be on the part of the Federal Government in relationship to the Native American Reservation land use agreements.

- # 8. If you move it, put it back. [What if DOE decides to move all of the high level waste along with low level, military and miscellaneous radioactive waste to Yucca Mountain and then some one says, oops, not gonna work, too many fault lines, too close to the water, not a good idea after all. That is not the time to decide on-site storage is a good idea. Once it's moved, it will not be put back. Please consider leaving it on site until a safe a viable plan is secured.]
- # 9. If you break it, replace it. The biggest break I see in all of this is the break in the trust of people. For so many years the American public has depended on the government to protect our inalienable rights to Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. It is a struggle to pursue happiness when so many people suffer at the mercy of radioactive pollution. Cancer victims are
- 4... turning up in droves everywhere you turn. [There is an obvious parallel between radiation exposure and incidence of cancer. How can we trust DOE when

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standards of exposure are set so low. When standards are changed to make Yucca Mountain "OK" and those same standards are set to 1 death related to cancer, ^{ie. radiation exposure} in 1,000 as opposed to the previous 1 in a million. That one human being in a thousand has lost the most precious inalienable right of all, the right to his or her life. Can you as a DOE employee help to replace that trust? Not with propaganda but with changes in how you set the standards? You can. You can set that standards at 1 in million or at 0.

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If it howls, feed it. The nuclear industry howled years ago and the federal government fed it billions of dollars to fund this new fuel called Nuclear Energy. The people are howling now for an end to the waste production. Howling for funding for alternative energies. Howling for research and development for a solution to the problems Nuclear Energy has created. It's time to feed the people.

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If it cries, love it. Has your child ever come to you, the parent, crying because he fell and hurt his knee. Or your teenage daughter comes home crying after breaking up with her first boyfriend. Or your brother cries because he just found out he has cancer of the Lungs, or Spine, or Lymph nodes or Stomach, or Bones or Larynx or Eyes. They came to you and wanted love and compassion and that's all. As a nurse, I see more and more families affected by cancer everyday. They survive together with a strong faith and a Love for life. I've seen entire families go through lifestyle changes in hopes that the

6 cont: cancer will have less of a chance to eat away at their Life. Well, the Earth is crying right now. Crying because she wants love and compassion. Crying because we have forgotten how beautiful she is and ^{how} vulnerable her water, rock, soil, and air are.

#12. If you value it, care for it.